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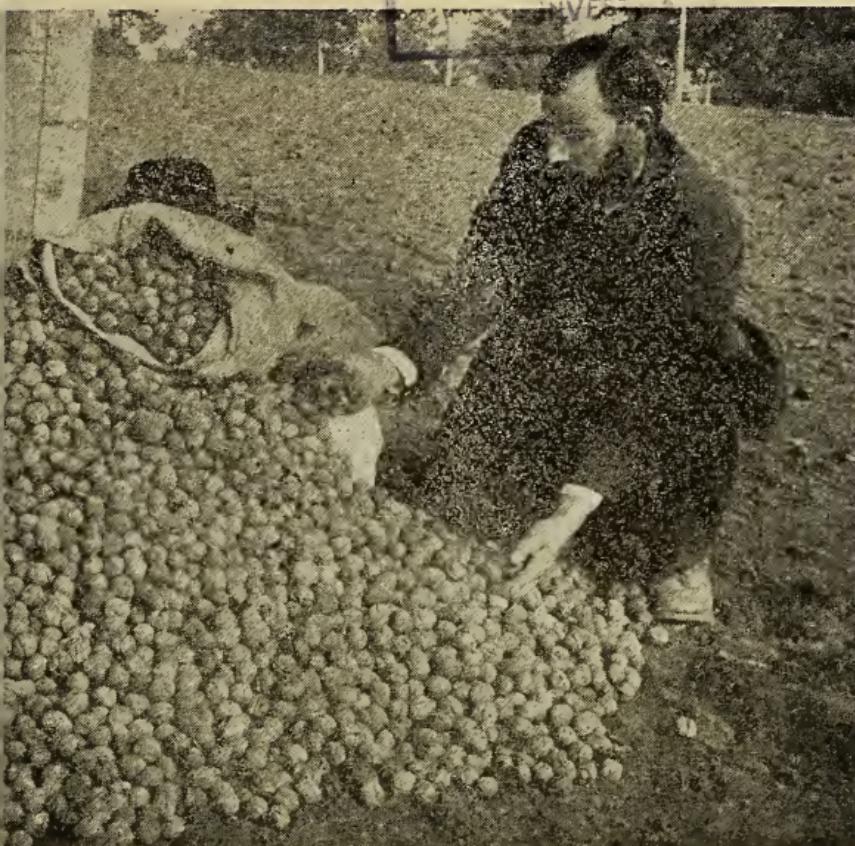
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HORTICULTURAL INVESTIGATION

INVESTIGATION



Walnut Growing in Oregon

By CHARLES TRUNK

Dundee, Oregon

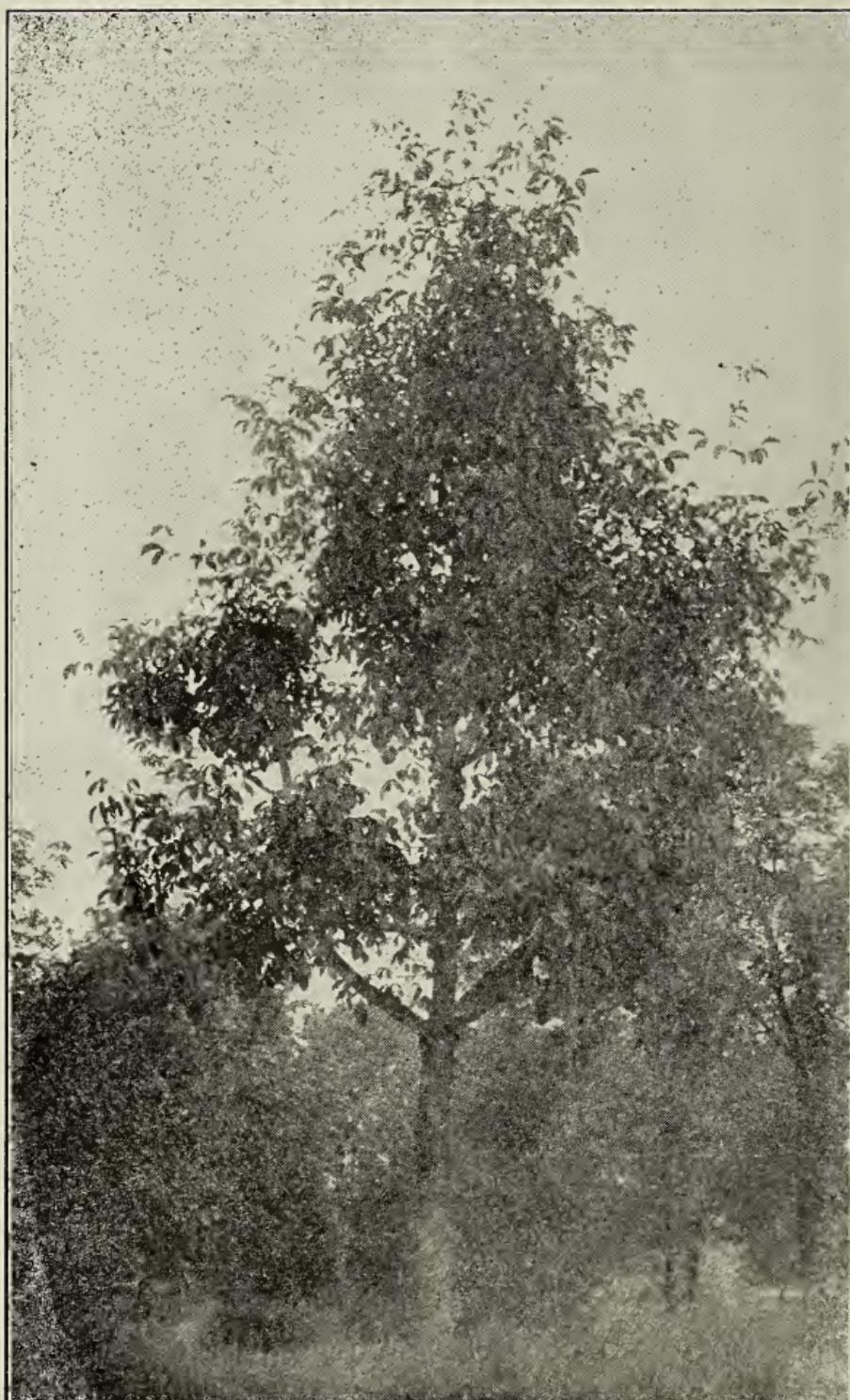
SECOND EDITION

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CAPITAL CITY NURSERY COMPANY

Salem, Oregon

A Black Walnut tree top-grafted to the
Vrooman Franquette variety.



There are hundreds of Black Walnut trees scattered throughout the country that can be made very valuable by top-grafting.

Walnut Growing in Oregon

As Viewed by Mr. Chas. Trunk, of
Dundee, Oregon, in 1915.

The reader will observe the following article is in two sections. The first section was written by Mr. Trunk in 1915, while the last section was added in 1917.

It is thought that Walnut Growing in Oregon will become one of our leading industries.

Planted Seedling Trees.

The first commercial grove of 100 acres was grown by Mr. Thos. Prince, of Dundee. His trees are now 18 or 19 years old. This planting consists of seedling trees, with a small sprinkling of grafted trees. Being a close neighbor of Mr. Prince's and seeing his trees come into bearing, and having increasing crops from year to year, we decided in the winter of 1906 to plant 10 acres to walnuts. At the time we planted our trees, there were but few grafted trees to be obtained, consequently we planted seedling trees, as practically all other growers in this neighborhood did.

In the year 1907 we planted 10 acres—1908 five acres, and in 1909 we decided to plant 13 additional acres, but thought we had better plant the seed where trees were to grow, planting four nuts, taking out the following year the poorest trees and leaving the best to grow.

In 1910 we made another planting of 12 acres, making our grove to contain 50 acres. This last planting was of the VROOMAN FRANQUETTE, being three years old at the time of planting.

Use Prunes as Fillers.

All this land is rolling, having shotty soil. Three years ago we planted 14 acres to prunes, planting every 30 feet in every fourth row, four black walnuts—both eastern and California, which young trees were grafted this spring with scions from our best seedling trees. We have another small planting eight and nine years of age on waste land which gave us the past two years fair returns.

Trees Planted 50 Feet Apart.

All of our trees are planted 50 feet in square, except the 14 acres with prunes as fillers. Our seedling walnuts of the first planting are Mayette, Franquette and Parisienne varieties, leaving out the Parisienne in later plantings. All of our seedling trees were planted one year old, planting the same two to three inches deeper than grown in nursery. It would lengthen this article too much to explain the planting and cultivation up to the present time. We would like to impress on the minds of prospective walnut growers, that the best care is none too good if you want your trees to come to bear early and bring you returns on investment and labor.

Seedling Trees Regular and Heavy Bearers.

At the present time there is a movement to plant grafted trees only—some growers and nurserymen recommend this plan very strongly. Being located in the walnut center of the State, having under close observation our own trees, both seedling and grafted, also neighboring groves, we feel we have a good inside view of the merits of both. I wish to say here, that I am not a nurseryman, having neither seedling or grafted trees to sell, but want to state plainly the facts as they appear here.

Take our first three plantings—seven, eight and nine year old seedling trees, at the present time, consisting of 25 acres, which came into bearing in 1911, getting that year a three-fourths of a flour sack full; 1912 one grain sack; 1913 six and a half sacks; 1915. 100 sacks of walnuts. Our seedling trees of 1909 have a fine sprinkling of walnuts; our grafted trees started to bear two years ago, having a half gallon of nuts, last year three grain sacks full and this year will have a small crop, approximately two to three gallons—a decrease of two and three-fourths sacks.

Looking over the groves in this neighborhood, we find the same conditions, seedling trees well loaded, grafted trees comparatively few walnuts. A five acre tract of 18 year old trees located near here is bearing very sparingly this season. These trees are goood size and ought to produce 75 pounds of walnuts per tree, but will have hard work to tip the scales at 30 or even 20 pounds.

Meat Rather Than Shell Counts.

Some growers put forth the statement that grafted trees put forth a larger nut. This is true to some extent, because these trees are grafted with scions taken from trees bearing large nuts, but let nobody be deceived at picking time, you will find large and small nuts just like you find on seedling trees. You get the type of nut, but size will vary. Same as you will find apples grown on grafted trees, get both large and small apples.

We find the French imported nut is of medium size, as is also the California walnut. On opening walnuts we find the medium size walnuts have more meat in proportion to the size than the larger ones, and sharp housewives of the future we think would rather have the meat than shell.

Seedling Trees Have Less Blight.

Comparing the seedling with grafted trees as to blight, we will say, the grafted tree in this vicinity shows 25 per cent more blight tree per tree than the seedlings. We have in our groves seedlings that have not and never have had any blight, but not a single grafted tree but that did not have the blight from the beginning. We are strongly considering the replacing of grafted trees in our grove, where we used prunes for fillers, with seedling trees, if the grafted trees in this vicinity do not bear better next year. Some put forth the statement that they can sell the grafted nuts at a higher price than the seedling nuts. Will there not be more money in selling two pounds of seedlings at 20 cents per pound, than having one pound of grafted nuts to sell at 25 cents?

Grafted Trees May Bear First.

The claim is often put forth that the grafted trees will come into bearing at two, three and four years of age. Admitting this fact, what does the few nuts grown on these young trees amount to, compared to the injury it does the trees? We have a seedling tree that bore 24 pounds of walnuts at seven years of age, increasing this yield from year to year.

Planting seedling orchards of the higher standard, all undesirable trees ought to be taken out, or top grafted. This can easily be done if you know how, and every grower should be able to do so. Any trees that do not leaf out before June 15th may not mature their nuts, only increasing the culls, and should either be removed or top grafted. The idea is to make every tree a producer, and if you have seedlings of this kind you cannot ask for anything better; also any seedling trees that bear small or ill-

shaped nuts should be replaced with others.

Protection Against Frost Losses.

One more point that is in favor of seedlings is this, they leaf out during a period of six to eight weeks, from the 15th of April to the 15th of June. Our 12 acres of grafted trees come out in leaf and set the fruit inside of a few days in April. Suppose we have a hard frost — the whole crop is practically gone, but if a frost should strike our seedlings in the range of eight weeks, there will be only a small percent injured as some have already their fruit set or not far enough advanced to be damaged, insuring almost a full crop, so don't let us be hasty to condemn the seedling tree until we have had experience with both kinds—grafted and seedling trees.

Two Years After.

As time goes on I find I made a wise move when I decided eleven years ago to plant my land to walnuts.

Time Proves Judgment Good.

From a financial standpoint our trees are doing all that can be expected. They are repaying the capital we invested to raise and bring them into bearing. I am often asked what income one can expect of a walnut grove, and how many nuts a tree has to bear to pay interest on capital invested. Take our grove, for instance, where we planted the trees 50 feet in the square, about 18 trees to the acre, it will only take 35 pounds of nuts per tree at 16 cents a pound to bring 10 per cent on \$1000.00 per acre land. There are many

of our trees that are in their 11th year's growth, which have fifty pounds or more of nuts this year. Many of the trees in the Thomas Prince grove, which are in their 20th year's growth, have three, four and more sacks of walnuts this year. Our first three plantings of 25 acres, where the trees are in their 9th, 10th and 11th year's growth, and which are all seedlings, brought last year 128 1-2 sacks, or three tons of nuts, of which only eleven sacks were second grade. This year these trees are bearing heavier than ever before, and being larger, we believe double of last year's crop will be the result. Our 7-year-old seedlings are coming into bearing. Some of these trees had a fine crop of nuts at six years of age, while this year every tree has more or less walnuts of a fine grade.

Our Best Paying Trees.

Our grafted trees had a promising outlook for a good crop the fore part of the season, but unfortunately, as in past years, the blight will reduce the yield. At the present time, just before harvest, these grafted trees show from 50 to 60 per cent blight. There seems to be not a single tree immune from it. On the other hand, as I wrote two years ago, we have hundreds of seedling trees that are entirely free from blight. So I find at the present time, our seedlings are our best paying trees, until such time as a remedy for blight is found, if it ever will be found.

Are Fillers Advisable.

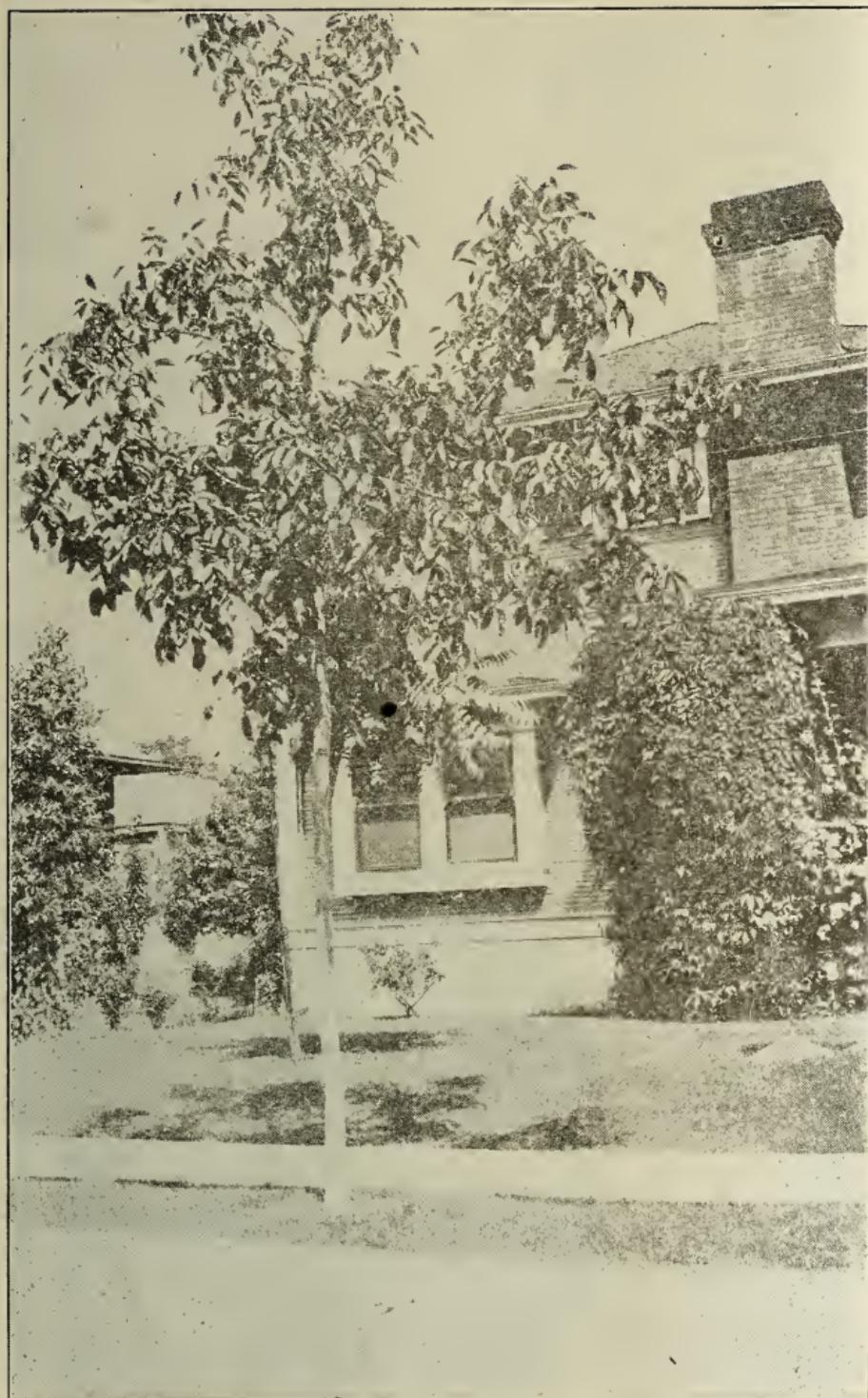
I am also often asked if it would be advisable to use a filler with walnut trees. This depends entirely on the size of your pocketbook. If you can afford to plant a walnut grove and are willing to wait until your trees bring returns, I would not

advise to use a filler, as the walnut trees planted by themselves and having and getting the full strength of the soil they grow in, make a more vigorous growth and bear heavier. On the other hand, if you like to have an income from your land until your walnut trees come into bearing, I would advise a filler. In our neighborhood the Italian prune brings the best returns, starting with seven years of age. It is safe to plant walnut trees where the Italian prune will bear and where the prune blossoms are not injured by frost. There are many prune orchards planted on low ground or in the frost line, and the crop of these orchards is not always certain. To plant walnuts on this same kind of ground, would make the nut crop as uncertain as the prune crop. Prunes make a fine filler with walnuts on higher ground, that is, land that is fairly free of frost. When prunes begin to bear they have to be cultivated a little later in the season, a little longer than walnut trees have to be cultivated. Consequently you have a more tender growth on your walnut trees late in the season, which may easily be damaged by an early Fall frost if located on low ground, as was the case last year. If you intend to plant a walnut grove on low ground where the trees may be injured by an early Fall frost, it would be advisable to plant a filler that does not need as late cultivation as the prune. Some of my trees that are planted on low ground I do not cultivate after the 15th of June, consequently have never lost any new growth. If you plant walnut trees and use prunes as fillers, the walnuts should not be planted closer than 60 feet, or every third row. In my last planting they are planted 80 feet apart. If you do this you will have a large number of prune trees left when

you have to begin to take out some of them to make room for the walnuts, which need not be done before the walnuts are 16 or 18 years old. The rest of the prune trees can be removed when they are 20 or 25 years old.

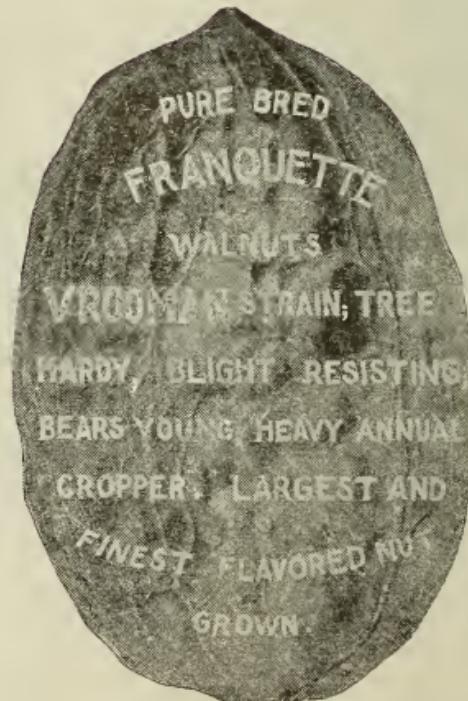
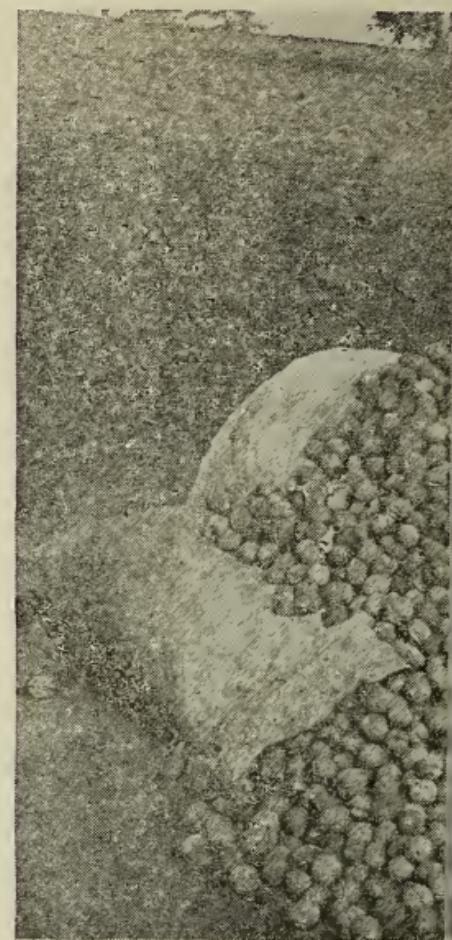
Elements of Success.

Just a few words more to those who intend to plant walnuts the coming Spring. Prepare your soil in the most thorough way you can. If you can afford it, plow at least 12 inches or more deep. Remember this will be your last chance to do so. Plant your trees very carefully. Rather plant 15 or 20 a day and have them grow well, than plant 40 or 50 or as some do 100 trees a day, and have later a stunted tree. Cultivate thoroughly and persistently. Make up your mind to be as enthusiastic about your walnut grove in six or eight years from now as the day you are planting them and you will succeed. If you buy the best trees in the market and do not give them the best of care for at least seven or eight years, you may be disappointed. Don't leave everything to the hired help. They are naturally not as much interested in the welfare of your trees as you are yourself. If you follow this advice, you will never regret that you planted a walnut grove.



A 4-year-old Vrooman Franquette Walnut belonging to L. E. Blaine, of Albany, Oregon, which is estimated to have a half bushel of walnuts on it.

MR. CHAS. TRUNK
IN HIS GROVE
ADMIRING THE
GOLDEN
NUGGETS
AS THEY
HAVE BEEN
COLLECTED
UNDER THE
TREE



¶ The Vrooman Franquette is the most aristocratic nut on the market, brings the highest price and is called for by the best trade. Plant the Vrooman Franquette if you want the winner.